

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TO THE

PAUL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1900.

Inspection of the District.

During the year I have from time to time inspected all parts of the district. In 1900 six new houses were built at Newlyn, four at Mousehole. The proportion of houses to inhabitants is probably improving. I have not ascertained any cases of marked overcrowding during the year. Many remain closely packed, many are without courtlages, most without closets. One at Paul Churchtown was closed during the year as being unfit for human habitation. Many others are of great age but, speaking generally, I have found them to be in fair condition. Two have been repaired, after notice given by your Authority.

Drainage.

I have been pleased to observe an improved cleanliness of the Tolcarn river, its flow having been less impeded by the presence of refuse and lumber of all kinds.

The recent improvement in the drainage of St. Peter's Hill, Newlyn, is salutary. I hope that your Council will at once consider the necessity of carrying the sewerage of Newlyn Town to a point outside the Harbour limits, below low-water mark.

Water Supply.

Your Authority is rightly considering the advantages of an improved water supply to the lower part of Newlyn Town, and should with equal propriety arrange to remedy the present inadequate supply (especially noted in the summer months) at Street-an-Nowan.

Scavenging.

Your efforts at Newlyn and at Mousehole in this matter would appear to be increasingly aided and appreciated by the inhabitants, and are marked by an improvement in the appearance of the roads, cliff-sides, and streams.

School Closets, &c.

The excreta here, under the universally existing pail system, appear to be dealt with in a satisfactory manner. At Newlyn Board School it would be better to substitute round pan receptacles for the existing square shaped ones.

Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 14 bakehouses in the district : 8 at Newlyn, 6 at Mousehole, unregistered. There is one slaughter-house at Newlyn, unregistered. There are 36 dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, unregistered. I repeat my recommendation of the registration of all these, and again recommend the adoption of the model regulations applicable to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, approved by the Local Government Board.

Monthly Reports.

Monthly reports of cases of sickness and of deaths within the district have been regularly made by me throughout the year to yourselves and to the Cornwall County Council.

Vital Statistics for 1900.

During 1900, 172 births (82 male, 90 female) were registered, giving a birth-rate of 29.05, 1.3 per 1000 below the average of the preceding 8 years. 88 deaths (44 male, 44 female) took place, giving a death-rate of 14.86, 1.36 below the average of the same period. The infantile mortality is 133.72 per 1000 births, 6.14 below the average for the same time. The zymotic death-rate is .5, the lowest recorded since I have held office.

Correcting the death-rate by excluding 3 deaths of non-residents, it stands at the satisfactory figure of 14.35.

The death and disease rates, reckoned upon the population of the entire district, are thus exceptionally favourable. It will be seen however that they fall with unequal incidence upon the several localities.

NEWLYN.

Here, excluding one death of a non-resident (which indeed took place before landing ashore), but 30 deaths were registered during the year, giving the phenomenally low death-rate of 9.1 per 1000 per annum, markedly below the average of the preceeding 8 years (15.41). The infantile deaths are similarly low, 6 deaths under 1 year of age being recorded against an average of 13 for the preceeding 8 years. The saving of life above noted is indeed entirely within the limits of Newlyn

Of the 6 deaths under 1 year of age 2 were cases of Premature birth, 1 took place from Broncho-pneumonia in January, 1 from Diarrhœa in August.

Of the two deaths between 1 and 5 years, 1 was from Broncho-pneumonia, one from Croup.

One boy 7 years old was found dead in Newlyn Harbour.

Of two deaths between 5 and 15 years, one took place from Typhoid Fever, one from heart disease.

7 deaths were registered at ages between 25 and 65. Of these 3 were from Heart Disease, 1 from Phthisis, one from Chronic Nephritis.

12 deaths took place at 65 years and upwards. Of these two were from Heart Disease, 1 from Bronchitis in February, one from Pneumonia in May, one from Peritonitis.

Three cases of infectious disease at Newlyn were notified during the year, viz :—2 cases of Scarlatina in January and March (the second derived from visiting the first), and the above mentioned fatal case of Typhoid Fever, which began and ended in July.

The Infectious Disease rate stands at .91 per 1000, the Zymotic death-rate at .6, both satisfactory figures.

MOUSEHOLE.

Excluding the death of one non-resident (found dead at sea), 30 deaths were registered as having occurred at Mousehole during the year. These give a death-rate of 19.29, appreciably above the average of the preceding 8 years (15.21).

Nine deaths under 1 year of age were recorded, against an average of 7 during the preceding 8 years. Of these 2 took place from Bronchitis.

One death occurred at 12 months in January from Broncho-pneumonia, one at 14 years from Heart Disease.

Six deaths (including 4 from Phthisis) took place between 25 and 65 years of age.

Thirteen deaths (including 3 from Heart Disease, 1 from Pneumonia, and 1 from Cancer) occurred at 65 years and upwards.

The increased mortality took place mainly at the higher ages. Mousehole claims 4 of the 5 deaths from Phthisis occurring within the district.

No cases of Infectious Disease were notified or ascertained at Mousehole during the year. No Zymotic deaths were recorded.

COUNTRY DISTRICT.

Excluding the death of one non-resident (who committed suicide upon the highway) 25 deaths were recorded, giving a high death-rate of 23.32, above the average of the 8 preceding years (19.92).

Eight deaths under one year of age were recorded, against an average of 5 during the preceding 8 years. These include 1 case of a prematurely born child. Of the rest, 2 occurred from Broncho-pneumonia, 1 from Bronchitis, 1 from Tabes Mesenterica, 1 from Diarrhœa.

Two deaths took place between 1 and 5 years of age : 1 from Pneumonia, 1 from Enteritis.

One death from accident occurred at 7 years of age, and there was 1 death from Purpura and Kidney disease at 17 years.

Three deaths took place between 25 and 65 years of age, including one following Child-birth and Blood poisoning at 28 years.

Ten deaths occurred at 65 years of age and upwards, including 3 from Heart Disease, 2 from Pneumonia, and 1 from Pleurisy.

As at Mousehole the increased mortality took place mainly at the higher ages of life. 6 of the 15 deaths from ordinary Respiratory diseases occurring in the district took place in the country portion.

One case of Typhoid Fever at Trevartha was notified in February. This was derived from nursing a previous Typhoid case at Newlyn, and happily recovered. This gives an infectious disease rate of .93. The Diarrhœa death gives a zymotic death-rate at the same figure.

No death from Phthisis has occurred in the country portion of the district during the last 7 years.

Vaccination.

Vaccination appears to have been freely administered during the past year.

Hospital Accommodation and Disinfecting Apparatus.

It is my duty to remind you that your District still lacks these necessary provisions for dealing with Infectious Diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,

M.O.H., PAUL.

5, MORRAB ROAD,
PENZANCE,

January 14th, 1901.

